



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



May 4, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, in order to be a strong competitor for the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant in Phase II, Connecticut is asking **all** superintendents, board of education chairs, and local union presidents, that elect to implement all or significantly all of the State's RTTT plan, to once again formally sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the Local Education Agency's (LEAs) commitment to implement the State's plan.

This memorandum serves to provide you with the MOU for RTTT Phase II, along with the details for the required initiatives within the MOU. **Importantly, we will also provide you with further details regarding the State's reform plan within the RTTT Phase II Application shortly.**

Please note, the MOU **must** be signed by the superintendent and, if possible, the president of the local school board and the leader of the local teacher's union. The more signatures we receive, the more competitive we are in our application. This was clearly confirmed by the winners of RTTT in Phase I, who obtained **over 90 percent support** from their LEAs, including signatures of all three stakeholders: superintendents, board of education chairs, and local union presidents.

In order for Connecticut to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Education on June 1, 2010, **LEAs must submit signed MOUs to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) no later than May 19, 2010.** Signed MOUs should be faxed or e-mailed to Jessica Andrews at 860-713-7004 or jessica.andrews@ct.gov.

Also, as noted in the memorandum dated April 30th, in order to provide guidance and answer any questions LEAs may have about the RTTT Phase II Application and the MOU content, the CSDE will be **conducting a series of conference calls** on the following dates and times:

Monday, May 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

Friday, May 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

The call-in information for these calls is as follows:

- **Call: 877-674-2487**
- **Enter pass code: 221757#**

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jessica Andrews, CSDE's ARRA Coordinator, at 860-713-6582 or via email at jessica.andrews@ct.gov.

Your involvement and support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working together on this very important initiative.

Sincerely yours,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education